

FOCUS

Missouri

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July 7, 2006

HEADLINE NEWS

Missouri Businesses Receive Job Training Funds



The Department of Economic Development's Division of Workforce Development has approved over \$1.8 million in state assistance associated with the training of Missouri workers. Funds through the Customized Training Program will be used to facilitate classroom training for 185 new and 7,261 existing employees at 49 Missouri companies and 5 training consortiums. [Read more...](#)

Kauffman Campus Initiative Provides \$35 Million in Grants for Entrepreneurship

In 2003, the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation started a grant program to teach entrepreneurship in disciplines outside of business schools. Recently, the foundation increased the funds from \$25 million to \$35 million to encourage higher education institutions to develop programs fostering entrepreneurship. [Read more...](#)



UMSL Creates IT and Research Center



Chancellor Thomas George and Vice Provost for Research, Nasser Arshadi, are assembling a supercomputer, community and research alliances, a business incubator and the global headquarters of Express Scripts Inc. to foster the state's booming technology industry, which will "feed" economic development around the region. [Read more...](#)

Lake Ozark Proposes TIF Plan to Boost Economy

The Lake Ozark City Council approved an estimated \$580 million in development projects introduced under a new Tax Increment Financing Proposal for Horseshoe Bend. The plan will help pay for roads, housing, and commercial development, and will provide numerous economic gains for the Lake region. [Read more...](#)



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Missouri Business Increase Beats U.S. Average



The number of businesses in Missouri increased by 3,500, or 2.4 percent, from 2003-2004, says the U.S. Census Bureau. This increase was higher than the national average and also exceeded that of all Missouri's neighbors. St. Clair and Butler counties experienced the largest percentage increase with a 16.7 and 12.1 percent increase, respectively. [Read more...](#)

Profiling Missouri's Communities: St. Joseph

St. Joseph, the seventh largest city in Missouri, had an estimated population of 72,661 in 2005. St. Joseph is the Buchanan County seat. St. Joseph has a strong life sciences-based economy. [Read more...](#)



FOCUS ON COMMUNITY

Higginsville Senior Center Receives Youth Opportunities Tax Credits

The Higginsville Senior Center will receive over \$147,000 in state tax credits for the center's Higginsville Youth Center project. The center is expected to leverage up to at least \$295,480 in local contributions to help fund the project, which will renovate a portion of the senior center into a youth center offering fitness, recreation and opportunities for positive development for youth. [Read more...](#)

FOCUS ON WORKFORCE

Blunt Announces New Worker Training Strategy

Gov. Matt Blunt announced today the award of \$7 million in regional workforce grants as part of his new Skilled Workforce Initiative. The program takes a collaborative, performance-based approach to provide targeted workforce development solutions for businesses and workers across Missouri. The Skilled Workforce Initiative will launch 36 innovative projects giving the state another tool in its efforts to recruit and retain good, family supporting jobs.

The Skilled Workforce Initiative is funded through the federal Workforce Investment Act funding and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families High Performance bonus funds. Missouri's 14 Local Workforce Investment

FOCUS ON BUSINESS

Industry Week Features St. Louis as "Gateway for New Medicines"

The world's largest pharmaceutical manufacturer began construction last fall on a new \$200 million research facility in Chesterfield. The building will feature state-of-the-art labs and equipment and will enable more collaboration among scientists. About 250 researchers in the St. Louis area will move to the Chesterfield location, joining about 950 support staff already working there. [Read more...](#)

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State Grant Will Aid Caruthersville with Tornado Recovery

Gov. Matt Blunt announced that a state grant will aid the city of Caruthersville by providing funding for a recovery coordinator to assist with the needs resulting from the April 2 tornado. DED awarded a \$52,000 grant to the city of Caruthersville on behalf of the emergency grant program. The state funds were granted through the department's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. In addition to the state grant, this project will also receive support through local cash and in-kind services. [Read more...](#)

St. Luke Community Christian Center Receives Tax Credits

St. Luke Community Christian Center of Wellington will receive over \$171,000 in state tax credits for the center's community facility project. The center is expected to leverage up to at least \$343,806 in local contributions to help fund the project, which will benefit the youth of the Wellington-Napoleon community. [Read more...](#)

Boards (LWIB) administer the funding on behalf of local partnerships in their area. Gov. Blunt praised the strategic alliances that were developed through the initiative, noting that representatives from business and industry, labor, education, social services and workforce and economic development officials all worked together to develop projects. Community partners have joined in supporting this initiative and are contributing over \$7.2 million in local resources.

The Skilled Workforce Initiative consists of seven components: One Stop Career Center Enhancements; Regional Skills Gap; Incumbent Worker Skill Shortages; Youth Skill Shortages and Capacity Building; Business Retention Services; Micro Enterprise Training and Support and Community Workforce Solutions for Low Income Populations. [Read more...](#)

St. Louis Firms Make Fortune's 100 Fastest-growing Small Companies

According to *Fortune Small Business* magazine, three St. Louis firms are among the 100 fastest-growing small companies in America. The annual list ranks LaBarge at No. 21, Talx at No. 52 and Reliv at No. 55. *Fortune* selects its top small businesses from companies with revenue of less than \$200 million and a stock price of more than \$1, based on three-year growth earnings, revenue and performance. [Read more...](#)

Springfield, Joplin Firms to Receive Federal Funding for Defense Research

Pending approval by the U. S. Senate, several companies in Joplin and Springfield's Jordan Valley Innovation Center (JVIC) are slated to receive federal funding appropriated for defense research projects. The bill includes \$10 million for Gestalt Inc., \$3.5 million for EaglePicher Technologies, \$3 million for Brewer Science, \$9 million for Nantero Inc. and \$4 million for the start of Phase II of the JVIC. [Read more...](#)

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Honda Selects Indiana for New Plant

Honda Motor Co. will build its sixth North American auto assembly plant on a 1,700-acre site near Greensburg, Ind. The \$550 million project will employ 2,000 people initially with a maximum annual capacity of 200,000 vehicles. The new facility is about 100 miles from Honda's engine plant in Anna, Ohio. [Read more...](#)

Jet Manufacturer Expands in San Antonio

Sino Swearingen will invest \$70 million in a new facility at the San Antonio International Airport, creating 850 jobs. The state awarded the company a \$2.5 million Texas Enterprise Fund grant to assist with the expansion of its current site. The new facility will include a new 220,000-square-foot manufacturing and assembly plant that will produce 100 aircraft per year.

[Read more...](#)

**U.S. Companies Missing Out on Saudi Economic Boom**

Abdullah Alireza, Saudi Arabia's Minister of State, says that American companies are failing to take advantage of Saudi's economic boom. Alireza says, "There is not a single American bank in Saudi Arabia," and no American company submitted bids for the Saudi Landbridge that will run from coast to coast connecting major cities. He continues, "While other countries like China, Japan, India and Australia continue to expand their presence throughout Saudi Arabia, the United States remains absent." [Read more...](#)

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HEADLINE NEWS

Missouri Revenue Leaps



The state's net general revenue was \$7.33 billion for fiscal year 2006, which ended June 30, the Office of Administration said. That's \$620 million higher than a year ago and \$292 million more than the revised forecast anticipated. Office of Administration commissioner Mike Keathley said the state hasn't seen this type of revenue growth without major changes in tax law in more than 20 years. [Read more...](#)

DED offers Application Tips for DREAM Initiative

Sallie Hemenway, Director of Operations for the Department of Economic Development's Business and Community Services Division, met with members of a local group in Hannibal as they began their application process for the DREAM Initiative. After the meeting, Hemenway offered all applicants across the state a few tips for their applications. [Read more...](#)



Blunt Tours to Promote Ethanol



Governor Blunt toured the state last week after signing House Bill 1270, which was created in response to the growing demand for fuel alternatives to ease the financial impact caused by rising gas prices. Under this legislation, gasoline sold in Missouri is required to contain at least 10% fuel ethanol when the price of the alternative fuel is less than or equal to the price of regular gasoline. [Read more...](#)

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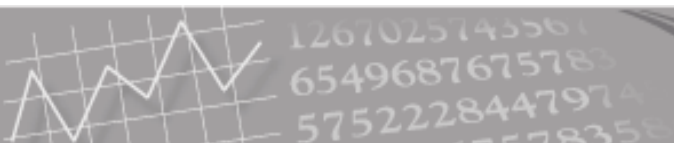
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Female-Owned Businesses in Missouri



There were 120,438 women-owned businesses in Missouri in 2002, according to the U.S. Census Bureau's Survey of Business Owners - 27.4 percent of all firms statewide. There were, however, almost twice as many male- (236,830) as female-owned firms in Missouri. Women-owned businesses are concentrated in Missouri's metropolitan areas. [Read more...](#)

Missouri Taxable Sales Increase in the 1st Quarter

Preliminary taxable sales estimates from the Missouri Department of Revenue (DOR) for the first quarter of 2006 totaled \$17.5 billion. That's an increase of 4.94 percent in actual dollars from the first quarter of 2005. [Read more...](#)



FOCUS ON COMMUNITY

State Tax Credits to Aid Our Town Tomorrow

DED approved up to \$110,986 in NAP tax credits for Our Town Tomorrow. The tax credits are expected to leverage \$158,552 in donations and will be used for the Whistle Junction project. [Read more...](#)

Bustling Springfield Sees a Sunny Future

Long associated with the Bass Pro Shop and glitzy nearby Branson, Missouri's third-largest city now boasts trendy eateries and upscale furniture, as well as clothing stores and loft apartments in its formerly forlorn downtown. [Read more...](#)

FOCUS ON WORKFORCE

DWD Revises Webpage

In an effort to improve customer service and provide better access to important tools for businesses, job seekers and workforce system partners, the Division of Workforce Development recently reconfigured its Web page around its three primary customer groups. The new site features helpful links that cater more directly to its job seeker, business, and partner groups, in terms of allowing them to access available services and relevant information.

DWD Director Rod Nunn says, "We are committed to continuous improvement of the workforce system's electronic tools. In addition to this new site, future technology improvements include an online resource directory (SHARE Network), 'job crawler'

FOCUS ON BUSINESS

Moberly Receives Enhanced Enterprise Zone Status

The City of Moberly recently received approval for Enhanced Enterprise Zone (EEZ) status from the Department of Economic Development. The city of Moberly's zone will have a 25-year lifespan and will be utilized by the city's seven-member board to broaden economic development opportunities throughout the city. [Read more...](#)

Virginia Firm Fills Former MCI Facility in Springfield

SunRocket plans to employ up to 500 workers by the end of the year, filling the former MCI complex in Springfield and offering jobs to 400 former MCI employees. Vienna, Va.-based SunRocket is a privately owned provider of Internet-based phone service and currently has

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Improvements to the Water System in Waverly

DED awarded a \$500,000 water system improvement grant to the city of Waverly through the department's Community Development Block Grant Program. The grant will provide the city and residents with safe drinking water. [Read more...](#)

Junior Achievement of Mississippi Valley, Inc. Receives YOP Tax Credits

Junior Achievement of Mississippi Valley, Inc. will receive \$200,987 in state tax credits for the Whole School Project, which will benefit elementary, middle and high schools in a variety of business and individual sponsored classes. [Read more...](#)

State Tax Credits to Aid Christian Associates of Table Rock Lake

DED approved up to \$87,500 in NAP tax credits for Christian Associates of Table Rock Lake. The tax credits are expected to leverage \$125,000 in donations for their "Keep a Home - Save a Job" project. [Read more...](#)

features that will provide access to other Web sites' job openings, and real time updates to this Web site."

See www.ded.mo.gov/wfd for a look at the new site. Contact DWD Marketing and Communications Manager, [Mike Waltman](#) with any questions.



Job Opportunities on the Rise for Medical Coders

According to a recent article in the *Tampa Bay Business Journal*, the national health care labor shortage, coupled with an impending overhaul of the existing International Coding Directory, is creating a job-seekers' market for professional coders. The number of job openings for health information professionals has doubled in the past two years, and salaries have also increased, according to Kforce Professional Staffing. [Read more...](#)

about 130,000 customers. [Read more...](#)

Springfield Firm Receives Enhanced Enterprise Zone Status

Webco, Inc., located in Springfield, has been approved for Enhanced Enterprise Zone (EEZ) status by the Department of Economic Development. The EEZ will have a five-year lifespan and will receive up to \$415,963 in tax credits for the creation of 150 new jobs and investment of \$2 million. [Read more...](#)

Modine Receives Volvo Contract worth \$45M

Modine Manufacturing Co. in Joplin has signed a three-year, \$45 million contract with Volvo. Modine's 170 employees at the Joplin plant will produce exhaust gas recirculation coolers that will be supplied to Volvo to make its engines compliant with new 2007 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency requirements. [Read more...](#)

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Maryland Biotech Tax Credits Take Effect July 1

The Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development began taking applications for the Maryland Biotechnology Tax Credit Program on July 1. The program will provide 50 percent tax credits to investors who make an eligible investment to a qualified Maryland biotech company. Qualifying companies must be located in Maryland, have fewer than 50 employees and have been in business no more than 10 years. [Read more...](#)

Ford Supplier Adds 100 Jobs to Louisville

Detroit-based Android Industries Inc., a fast-growing automotive supplier, will expand into a \$7.2 million complex at Chamberlain Crossings Business Park in Louisville. Android provides just-in-time delivery of auto parts, components and subassemblies and will create 100 jobs to produce and supply cooling systems for the Ford truck plant on Chamberlain Lane. [Read more...](#)

**Nucor Plans to Build Alabama Steel Plant**

The Decatur Industrial Development Board has approved \$7.5 million in tax breaks over 10 years for Nucor Corp. to build a sheet-steel galvanizing plant at its existing sheet mill in Decatur, Ala. Nucor announced earlier this month that it will invest \$150 million in the facility and will create 100 jobs with an average wage of \$75,000. An additional 100 contract jobs with an average wage of \$40,000 will also result from the project. [Read more...](#)

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HEADLINE NEWS

Missouri's Unemployment Rate Stands Strong



Missouri's unemployment remains well below the rate from one year ago and stood at 4.7 percent in June. The unemployment rate increased by three-tenths of a point and nonfarm payroll employment edged down, on a seasonally-adjusted basis, but compared to the rate of 5.9 percent in January 2005, the state's unemployment rate continues to stand strong. Nonfarm payroll employment has grown by 0.9 percent over the year. [Read more...](#)

Missouri Cities Ranked as "5-Star Quality of Life Metros"

Expansion Management ranks Columbia, Jefferson City and Springfield as "5-Star Quality of Life Metros" and Kansas City and St. Louis received "4-Star Quality of Life Metros" designations. To come up with final rankings for the cities, *Expansion Management* grouped their findings into nine major categories: affordable housing, good public schools, peace of mind, a balanced standard of living, broad opportunities for adult education, reasonable traffic and commuting, good commercial air access, a high adult education level and, from an employer's perspective, a young, reasonably-priced work force from which to find good employees. [Read more...](#)



Missouri Focus Receives Award for Excellence



Congratulations to the Department of Economic Development's Marketing Team for capturing the APEX 2006 Award for Publication Excellence in the Email Newsletter category. Since *Missouri Focus* fashioned a new design in July 2005, the e-publication has received two awards and increased the number of recipients from approximately 1,300 to 3,200 with the consolidation of several department newsletters. A collaborative effort from DED's business, community, workforce and MERIC research groups has shined the spotlight on Missouri as a "Show Me Information" trendsetter.

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[June 2006 Missouri Focus Issues](#)

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Missouri's CDBG Program Doing Exemplary Work

The Business & Community Services' Compliance Team was recently monitored for its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Environmental Review compliance area by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Approximately 20 CDBG project files were reviewed and it was indicated that "the State CDBG program is performing exemplary work in helping local governments meet their responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)... for CDBG-assisted projects." The U.S. Department also stated "the State has taken a variety of initiatives...that reduce after-the-fact compliance problems resulting in quality environmental reviews." For more information regarding environmental review requirements, contact Jo Ann Dent, CDBG Environmental Officer, at (573) 751-3600 or Joann.Dent@ded.mo.gov.



April 2006 Missouri Focus Issues

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Wentzville Fastest-Growing City



Wentzville gained over 3,000 people with a growth of over 22 percent from 2004 to 2005, making it the fastest growing city in Missouri, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Small Grant City, in Worth County, lost 25 people, making it the city with the largest percentage loss, 2.9 percent. Among large cities, O'Fallon had the largest percentage growth (4.0 percent), St. Louis had the largest loss (-1.8 percent, over 6,000 people). Nationally, the fastest growing cities were all in the Sun Belt. [Read more...](#)

St. Charles Accounts for One-Third of Employee Increase in Missouri

St. Charles County accounted for nearly one-third of the total statewide increase in paid employees from 2003 to 2004, or over 11,000 additional employees, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. The total number of paid employees in the state increased over 33,000, or 1.4 percent. [Read more...](#)



Community Child Development Center, Inc. Receives Tax Credits

DED approved up to \$328,090 in NAP tax credits for the Community Child Development Center, Inc. and are expected to leverage \$468,700 in donations for the Center's Building Campaign. [Read more...](#)

Street and Drainage Improvements in Queen City

DED awarded a \$400,000 street and drainage improvements grant to Queen City through the CDBG Program helping to increase the longevity of the proposed improved streets and reduce maintenance costs to the city. [Read more...](#)

State Tax Credits to Assist Henry County Industries, Inc.

DED approved up to \$350,000 in NAP tax credits for Henry County Industries, Inc. and are expected to leverage \$500,000 in donations. [Read more...](#)

Street and Drainage Improvements in Higginsville

DED awarded a \$400,000 street and drainage improvements grant to the city of Higginsville through the department's CDBG Program increasing the longevity of the improved streets and reduce maintenance costs. [Read more...](#)

GreatHires.org Added to City Web Sites

At a recent northeast Missouri Employer Committee meeting, it was proposed that Missouri cities or Chambers of Commerce Web sites may include a link to the Division of Workforce Development's [GreatHires.org](#) as a resource of employment opportunities for new residents in their area. Darla Duggins, DWD Northeast Business Representative, reported that the city of Kirksville and the Kirksville Chamber of Commerce have already obliged in her region, with a GreatHires.org link on their Web sites. It is the hope that there will be more Chambers and cities to follow, helping put more Missourians to work. To view a link in action, visit www.kirksvillecity.com.

Transforming Missouri's Workforce at this Year's Governor's Conference

Mark your calendars! The dates for this year's Governor's Conference on Workforce Development are October 11-13, 2006. Speakers and panelists will focus on the theme of "Transforming Missouri's Workforce: Building New Pipelines to Prosperity" at Tan-Tar-A Resort, Lake of the Ozarks. More information will be available soon at: www.ded.mo.gov/wfd.

Nestle Announces \$36M Expansion

Nestle Purina PetCare is planning a \$36 million plant expansion at its pet food manufacturing plant in St. Joseph this fall, creating 30 to 40 jobs in 2007. The expansion will enable the facility to make more wet pet food. Nestle will receive \$806,000 in incentives from the Missouri Enhanced Enterprise Zone program and will apply for an additional \$50,000 from Buchanan County for worker training. [Read more...](#)

St. Joseph Firm to Open Plant in China

Wire Rope Corp. of America will take advantage of the huge construction boom in China by building a \$100 million, one million square-foot facility in Wuhan, located in south central China. The plant will employ 400 workers and will produce 50,000 metric tons of wire-rope products annually, double the amount the St. Joseph facility produces. [Read more...](#)

SLS International Enters Multimillion-dollar Agreement

SLS International Inc., based in Ozark, has secured an agreement that grants DGM Audio LLC exclusive worldwide rights to manufacture, market and sell headsets and headphones that use SLS' patented ribbon-driver technology and other company trademarks. DGM will pay SLS a license fee of \$300,000, as

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well as royalties that could amount to millions. [Read more...](#)

GLOBAL NEWS

Ohio Lures Auto Suppliers with Zero-Percent Loans



The Ohio Department of Development will offer zero-percent loans to auto suppliers that will build or expand in the Buckeye State. The 2,000-worker Honda plant that recently located in Greensburg, Ind. convinced Ohio officials to help its own auto suppliers expand and compete for work from the new facility. Honda officials said the new

Indiana plant will mean \$1 million in business each year for Ohio companies and will create more than 1,000 new jobs in the state. [Read more...](#)

Nanjing to Build MG's in Oklahoma

Nanjing Automobile Group of China is planning to build a \$2 billion, 550-job production plant in Ardmore, Okla., where the company will revive the historic MG. The Ardmore facility will assemble a redesigned TF coupe. Nanjing will begin construction of the plant in early 2007 and start production in May or June of 2008. MG's global headquarters for sales, marketing and distribution outside of Asia is located in Oklahoma City. [Read more...](#)



Nestle Chooses Indiana for Distribution Center



A 190-acre site in Anderson, Ind. will be the new home of Nestle USA's \$359 million factory and distribution center. The 300-worker plant will produce Nestle's Nesquik and Coffee-Mate products in the 880,000-square-foot facility. California-based Nestle chose the Anderson site because of its "central location and the feeling that its welcoming environment would be a good place for Nestle employees and their families to live." [Read more...](#)

U.S. Capital Draws Overseas Biotech Firms

Although overseas biotechnology companies consider their science to be second to none, they are finding the American financial markets to be superior for providing capital to get beyond the early stages of research and development. Some say that only American investors can supply the tens of millions of dollars they need to carry their products through clinical trials. However, this trend may begin to slow as more big American investors are placing their financing in companies abroad and the logistics of having operations on two continents is difficult. [Read more...](#)



Sales Team Completes Trade Mission to China

The Division of Business & Community Services' Sales Team recently completed a successful trade mission to China. International Trade Manager, Yan Li, and four Missouri companies worked closely with DED's China office and the China Council for Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT) while visiting Beijing, Zhengzhou and Shanghai. Successful meetings were held with high level Chinese leaders and directors of the CCPIT, and each company had over a dozen Chinese companies to meet with in one-on-one meetings. Outcomes of the trade mission include increased sales and orders for Northern Pacific, location of a distributor in Beijing for Special Bus and a potential visit by a Chinese company to MVR Enterprises International. DED is considering another small trade mission to participate in the World Small and Medium Enterprises Expo in Hong Kong in November 2006.



Photos: l to r - China delegation, one-on-one company meeting, meeting with Chinese official

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HEADLINE NEWS



Home Buyer Program Receives an Additional \$50 Million

The Missouri Housing Development Commission is administering a program called "First Place Loans" which is being given \$50 million more in funds to be distributed to Missouri first-time home buyers. The program offers below-market interest rates and helps with down payments and closing costs to households that make less than \$57,000 to \$65,550. "This significant allocation of activity bonds will assist those first-time buyers with the rising interest rates and achieve their dreams of home ownership," Blunt said in a written statement. [Read more...](#)

MU Creates Foundation to Turn Research into Business

The University of Missouri curators are establishing a research foundation to help speed up the process for obtaining U.S. patents. The foundation will help MU to create Missouri-based businesses around new concepts or technologies which should strengthen the relationship between the university and the surrounding community. [Read more...](#)



Eminent Domain Bill Signed

Governor Matt Blunt signed into law a bill on eminent domain which will become effective August 28, 2006. The bill is aimed at preventing the abuse of eminent domain laws in Missouri. Blunt said, "I commend the General Assembly for addressing this issue and crafting a bill that will protect our homeowners, farm families and responsible property owners and help prevent the abuse of Missouri's eminent domain laws. I called for this important reform and am pleased to sign this bill that I believe has a significant impact on Missourians and their rights." [Read more...](#)

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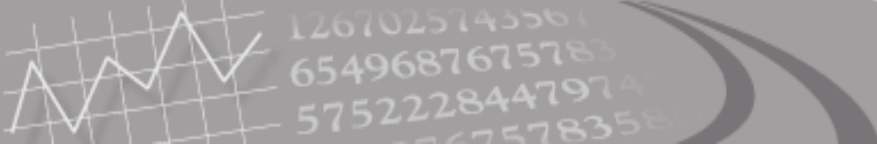
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Winners Will Shine as Governor Presents Awards

Governor Matt Blunt will present various prestigious awards at the 2006 Governor's Conference on Economic Development, at the Renaissance Grand Hotel in St. Louis, September 25-27, 2006. The spotlight will shine on individuals, communities and companies from around the state as they are recognized for their outstanding achievements in economic development over the past year. See www.missouridevelopment.org for more details and a registration form.



MERIC
TRENDSIGHTS



Missouri Personal Income Continues Upward Trend

Personal income in Missouri increased 1.2 percent, from \$188.36 billion in the fourth quarter of 2005 to \$190.69 billion in the first quarter of 2006. Industry sectors that contributed the largest amount to earnings growth from the previous quarter include Management of Companies and Enterprises; Construction; Federal, Civilian Government; Finance and Insurance; and Health Care and Social Assistance. [Read more...](#)

Asian-Owned Businesses in Missouri

In 2002, there were 6,380 Asian-owned businesses in Missouri, accounting for 1.45 percent of all firms statewide. Asian-owned businesses are concentrated heavily in the St. Louis, Kansas City and Springfield metropolitan areas. [Read more...](#)



2006 NAP Funds Are Available

The Neighborhood Preservation Act program has remaining 2006 ELIGIBLE area funds available. The Department of Economic Development will be accepting applications for the remaining 2006 Eligible Area Tax Credits August 1, 2006 through August 18, 2006. The applications must be postmarked no later than August 18, 2006. Please contact our office



Guard at Home Bill Signed

Governor Blunt has just signed a bill creating the 'Guard at Home' program that will help the spouses of Missouri Guard and Reserve troops who have been deployed. This pilot program will provide services to the families of veterans to address their immediate needs, and build a path to employment to help keep the family from falling into poverty while the family's



Biotech Institute Planned for UMKC

The University of Missouri-Kansas City announced last week that it is launching a new life sciences research project. The Institute for Translational Research will collaborate with area hospitals and will collaborate with UMKC's strengths such as bone biology, shock trauma and health outcomes. [Read more...](#)

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with any questions at 573-522-8004. Applications are available on our [website](#).

O'Fallon Among Best Places to Live

O'Fallon, Mo., was named one of the best places to live on Money.com's 2006 survey of the best places to live. Only two other Missouri cities, Columbia and Lee's Summit, made the [2006 complete list](#).

[Read more...](#)

Twin Pike Family YMCA Receives NAP Tax Credits

DED approved up to \$350,000 in NAP tax credits, which are expected to leverage \$500,000 in donations for the Twin Pike Family YMCA Facility Expansion Project. [Read more...](#)

Kingdom House Receives Youth Opportunities Tax Credits

Kingdom House in St. Louis will receive \$204,875 in state tax credits for their youth programs which take a holistic approach to youth development; addressing the youth's concerns, needs, safety and interests and including the participant's parents and neighborhood. [Read more...](#)

primary income earner is on active duty deployment. This program will be administered through the Department of Economic Development and will be funded through the federal workforce funds that support the Division of Workforce Development's Missouri Career Centers. The program will be available to start serving families by August 1, 2006. For more details, visit www.ded.mo.gov/wfd.

Summer Jobs for KC Youths

According to the Kansas City Business Journal, a partnership between the city of Kansas City and private businesses led to the creation of 1,000 summer jobs for area youth. The Summer Youth Employment Program offered summer employment opportunities to residents who live within the boundaries of the Kansas City School District and are between 14 and 25. Participants were invited to apply and interview for summer positions during a special event in April, called Kansas City's Bright Future Symposium. The city increased its summer youth employment by 118 percent compared with 2005, employing 225 youths in 12 city departments. [Read more...](#)

Amdocs Buys UK Firm in \$375M Deal

St. Louis-based Amdocs Ltd. will expand its service management and operational support systems (OSS) with the \$375 million purchase of United Kingdom-based Cramer Systems Group Ltd. Amdocs provides billing and customer relationship management software to the telecommunications industry. Cramer will form a new division that will be the centerpiece of Amdocs' OSS activities with Cramer's current management leading the company. [Read more...](#)

Cargill to Add 125 Jobs at KC Plant

Cargill Inc. is planning to invest up to \$180 million for expansion and modernization of its soybean crushing plant in Kansas City. The project will retain 44 jobs and add 25 new jobs, according to Joe Gonzales of the Economic Development Corp. of Kansas City. A second phase of expansion could create another 100 jobs and add \$60 million investment. Cargill will receive state and local incentives to assist with the expansion. [Read more...](#)

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\$458M Massachusetts Bill Focuses on Economic Development

The Massachusetts legislature has sent a \$458 million economic stimulus bill to the Governor's desk for signature. Provisions of the bill include a first-in-the-nation Cultural Facilities Fund and \$80 million to boost life science research with the establishment of a new Life Sciences Center to manage the state's life science activities and promote the creation of nano-manufacturing, bioprocessing and venture capital facilities at the University of Massachusetts. [Read more...](#)

Nebraska Advocates Manufacturing Careers

Nebraska business leaders are following the lead of a Kansas City pilot program, "Dream It Do It," by announcing a new campaign that promotes manufacturing jobs and careers to high school students and young adults. The program fits with state-level goals of encouraging business expansion and luring new investments to the Cornhusker state. A skills gap analysis will be one of the first tasks to address worker shortages and address manufacturers' concerns that not enough young people are graduating with the skills and training necessary for manufacturing jobs.. [Read more...](#)

Dream It Do It



North Carolina Gains 800 Jobs with Two New Plants

Kings Mountain, N.C. will see 800 new jobs with the addition of two new factories from British firm Stellican Limited. Stellican is investing \$41.5 million in the Chris-Craft and Indian Motorcycle plants. Chris-Craft, the country's oldest boat maker, will produce 33- to 40-foot yachts in the former Axle Alliance Co. plant, while Indian Motorcycle will begin production in the second half of 2007 in the former International Paper Co. facility. If the two companies meet the anticipated jobs targets, they could receive up to \$7.56 million in incentives. [Read more...](#)